

MARCH 1995

OPEN ARMS

NUMBER 3 VOL. 7

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

A LITTLE PIAZZ!! by P.S.Lorio



It was the first thing they checked for when I was born. There I was; bloody, fragile and frightened, had just been squeezed into the world like a glob of toothpaste, and the doctor's main concern was doing a bobber check.

Excuse me, I gasped, turning blue. I can't breathe here, you know.

"It's a girl," he announced quietly. I sensed an air of disappointment.

Waving my arms frantically, I tried to get someone's attention. *Hey! If you don't help me out pretty soon my mom's gonna think she gave birth to an eggplant. Look! I'm purple!*

Finally the doctor scraped the goop out of my nose.

Oh, thank you. I choked on my first taste of real air...whoaa! Suddenly the doctor grabbed me up like a fresh turkey. Holding me by the ankles (and totally without warning or provocation, might I add) he spanked me.

What? I'm in trouble already? Wha'd I do wrong? You can check my womb. I left it just like I found it..didn't scribble on the walls or anything.

Then mister-two-face tried to cradle me in his arms like we were best friends. *Forget it buster. I've had my suspicions about you ever since the forceps. I'm getting out of this joint. You won't have this baby to kick around anymore.*

Gently he laid me in my mother's arms. "It's a girl," he repeated. But what he really meant to say was: "thank you for playing our game but you're not today's big winner. Please accept this lovely parting gift." Face it, I was a consolation prize.

Those are the very roots of my penis envy. (Although I hate that word and henceforth that part of the male anatomy shall be referred to as a bobber). And yes, I can freely admit that I was jealous.

The strange thing was that for a long time I never knew exactly what it was that I was jealous of, so I started asking around. My mom couldn't exactly explain a bobber, she just blushed and started babbling something about a bobber being the tool a man used to plant a seed...and I began to wonder if she'd ever really seen one. So I went to ask Dad. Surely he'd have some information. He told me that he used his bobber to water the grass behind the garage. Finally a clue! I ran outside to have a look. Sometimes he forgot to wind up the garden hose, maybe I'd just see his bobber laying there in the grass. No luck, there was nothing back there but a wooden step ladder and a pair of old tires. (Though I did mention to my mom that dad used his bobber behind the garage sometimes, in case she wanted to know where to get a peek at one.) And with this new information, though I'd still never actually seen a bobber, I was beginning to get the picture. What my life was missing was some kind of a garden tool that resembled a lawn sprinkler. And it I could somehow get my hands on a bobber, I'd get a better bike.

Boy's bikes had everything: a sturdy frame built for taking jumps, gearshifts and handbrakes. My bike had a rusty chain that slipped off the sprocket when I peddled too fast and a wobbly front tire. "I want a bike like Phillip's," I whined.

"you can't have a boy's bike," mom scowled.

I know, I know...no bobber.

When I was nine years old I saw my first real bobber. It cost me fifty cents and ten Bazooka comics.

"That's it?"

"Yep." Mark wagged his bobber proudly. "Let you touch it for another quarter."

Was he kidding? I already wanted my money back. For this he got his own room and a B-B gun?! "What's it do?" After all this fuss I figured it had to do more than just hang there.

Then to my horror, he told me.

"No way!" What he was suggesting was physically impossible. Besides if I had a place big enough for a baby to crawl out of, don't you think I would know about it?

Down the road I learned that Mark pretty much had his facts straight. (All except for that part about the pony and the cowboy boots.) And when I was sixteen I had occasion to see my second bobber.

Apparently as you grew older it didn't cost anything to see a bobber, a guy would gladly whip it out if you showed the slightest interest. Frankly I don't think I asked. I wanted to watch the movie.

It was time to get really clear on this whole bobber issue. I'd spent the first half of my life trying to get a peek at one and now they were popping up like asparagus on a warm spring morning. For years I wondered if I could possibly live without one, and now that I fully understood the true nature of bobbies and myself, I knew I could. A bobber would never again define me as a human being, or a woman, or limit my role in this world.

I told the guy I'd walk home. He and his bobber could finish the movie together. He cried for an explanation. I couldn't give him one; I wasn't ready to throw open the closet door just yet.

But the next day I went out and bought a bike.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT SERVING IN SILENCE

In case you missed the movie, we taped it for you. Colonel Cammermeyer fights the Army to be true to herself.



ONE WOMAN, ONE VOTE
Documentary on women's suffrage.

Gloria and Julie's

NEW LOCATION

Call for directions: (616)-695-7311
Friday, March 10th
7:00 p.m.



LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

* MEETS AT A NEW LOCATION *

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O.

Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120



EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-684-4011

Game Night:

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sheree (616)-684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Squad's 2nd Precinct

502 W Sixth St.

Mishawaka

Friday, Mar. 17th

7:00 p.m.



For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday, Mar. 15th, at (219)-291-5837

DO YOUR FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT OPEN ARMS?

Ask your friends if they receive *Open Arms*. If they do not, let us know their name and address and we will send them a complimentary copy.

WRITERS TAKE NOTE...

We are gladly accepting articles, reviews and features that honestly capture our true lives. These can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546. Submissions received after the 10th of the month may not be published until the next month.

KALAMAZOO WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

Western Michigan University

Sat, March 4, 1995

Registration for the festival is \$15 and includes your choice of workshops, keynote speaker, entertainment, demonstrations and exhibits.

Late registration - 7:30 a.m.

Nancy S. Barrett (Keynote speaker)

"A Perspective on Women's Changing Roles"
Call River Artz at 388-5656 from 11am-6pm for info.

GULF COAST WOMYN'S FESTIVAL

April 13-16, 1995

Camp Sister Spirit...Ovett, Mississippi

Workshops, Crafts Womyn, Feminist Womyn's Spirituality, Southern Womyn' Network, GCWF Choir-Sue Fink, Dir. Campfires. for info write:

Camp Sister Spirit

P.O. Box 12

Ovett, MS 39464



Place: Milton Township Community Hall,
Niles, MI
Date: April 1, 1995
Time: 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY
(no advance tickets)

**A Wimin's
Event**

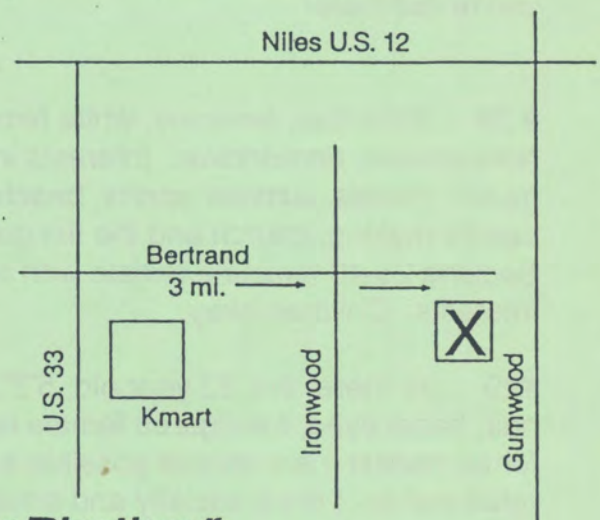
**Music by
DJ**

**Refreshments
Door Prizes**

Volunteers Needed
Call 616 - 684 - 7362 for information.



BYOB



Sponsored by the **"Lavender Rhythm"**
not affiliated with any group or organization.

Disclaimer: Lavender Rhythm or Milton Township are Not Responsible for Alcohol Related Incidents.

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES



O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

**The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120**

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. *COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

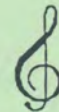
28 Attractive, feminine, white female, 25. Non-smoker, non-drinker. Interests include: music, movies, summer sports, beaches, candle-making, church and the list goes on. Seeking 25-40 feminine female with similar interests. Children okay.

#29 Hi there, this 32 year old, 5'2", brown hair, hazel eyed, full-figured female is looking for an honest friendship or possible serious relationship. I drink socially and smoke. Enjoy auto racing, movies, playing cards, long walks, quiet evenings at home, plus much more. Kids must be ok and no drugs.

30 Attractive, somewhat feminine, 37, 5'4", 155lbs., social drinker, non-smoker with two small children, looking for significant other to share life with. I like camping, biking, cross country skiing, walking along the beach, picnics, nature and romance. Any age, race, height, or weight may respond.

31 Hello out there...I am a sandy-blond, hazel eyed, 40 yr old, 5'5" and 140 lbs. I enjoy sports, long walks, long talks, movies, life. I do smoke, but don't drink or do drugs. Seeking honest, sincere female, 35-45 with similar likes. No Bi's please.

32 Forty something, 5'3", 115 lbs., white womyn, very stable with a solid value system and good sense of humor. I enjoy camping, canoeing, darts, movies, quiet evenings and womyn's events. Seeking a womyn over 40 w/similar interests to share the good times. Please...no Bi's or smokers, social drinker O.K.



CONCERT

Creating the Tapestries of Women's Lives
Ass. for Women in Psychology
20th Annual Feminist Psychology Conf.
Mar. 4, 1995

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& Singer/songwriter ANN REED
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317-637-2906

Coalition For Race Unity



Walk with us as friends and Neighbors on Sunday afternoon, May 21, 1995, 2-4:30. The walk will begin at Greater St. John's Baptist Church, 1613 W. Washington St., South Bend. For more info call: 219-289-4467 or 288-7053

NEWS NOTES

---**Community Center Opens In Indy!** Next month the Greater Indianapolis Lesbian and Gay Communities will take a giant leap forward. Diversity Center will open its doors officially at the organization's first Annual Meeting on March 4, 1995. The development of such a center in the area will help bring Indy people together to celebrate their diversity and share the joy of living.

The Center is located on Southeastern Ave., just south of Washington St., between Mr. T's Autos and State Auto Parts. info from OUTlines

---**Campus Life Council** at Notre Dame voted to support a lesbian and gay group, but stopped short of asking the university administration to formally recognize the group.

A co-chair of the group, GLND/SMC(St. Mary's College), has said the group has been meeting in the Counseling Center for the past nine years, and this was a widely known fact.

The Campus Life Council, meanwhile, could not muster the required 2/3 vote to condemn the university's decision and ask that the university officially recognize GLND/SMC.

The Graduate Student Council passed a resolution condemning the university's decision to bar GLND/SMC from campus and asked that Notre Dame officially recognize the group. info from So. Bend Trib.

---**Patricia Highsmith**, writer of crime novels, dies at 73. Ms. Highsmith published 20 novels and seven short-story collections. Her first novel, "Strangers on a Train," appeared in 1950. It was made into a movie by Alfred Hitchcock in 1951.

She was best known for creating Tom Ripley, a charming gentleman-murderer who was also her favorite character and starred in five of her novels.

One of her favorite plots was to examine torturous relations between two very different men, although in 1952 she wrote under a pseudonym "The Price of Salt," a story of lesbian love. info from Associated Press

---**Study:** Complacency about weight is risky. Overweight is very much a health issue.



Wimin of average weight had about a 50 percent higher risk of having a heart attack than wimin who weighted 15 percent less than the U.S. average, the study found.

How to estimate ideal body weight

An easy rule of thumb for estimating ideal body weight, consistent with findings of the Harvard study:

For wimin, 100 pounds for a height of 5 feet, with five additional pounds for each added inch of height. info from Elkhart Truth

---**A 17 year old youth claims he killed gays to protect himself.** Laurel, Miss., Youth claimed two gay men tried to rape him after picking him up near his home. He said both men were drunk and had joked with friends at a party that they were going to find pretty lovers.

Prosecutors say he did it for money, robbing the men before he killed them. info from Elkhart Truth

---**FOREVER** by Evelyn Kennedy, 224 pp.

The Naiad Press, Inc.

P.O.Box 10543

Tallahassee, Florida 32302

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1973. Sister Diana Colletti's dream has

always been to serve her church in Kenya.

Now her time has come, she has her chance

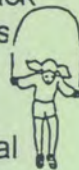
to achieve that dream. Her training has been

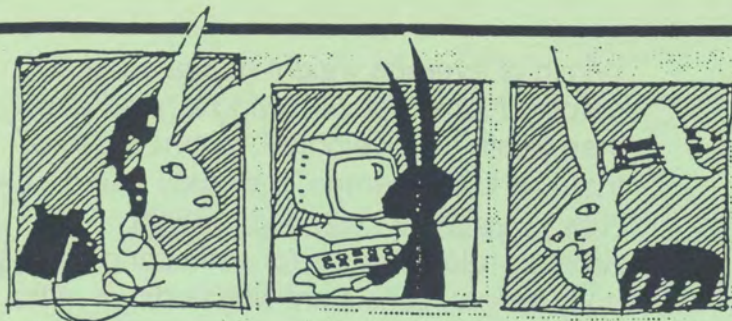
assigned to Dr. Victoria (Torrie) Lassiter.

Guess what happens? Read the book and find out.

---**Newt** has a lesbian half-sister and counts gay Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin as a personal friend. One could interpret his "tolerance" comments as a hopeful sign for lesbian and gay Americans, or he could represent a profound political threat.

32 percent of self-identified lesbians and gay men voted Republican in the 1994 elections. This was probably due to the disappointments from the Clinton administration and his swift cave-in on ending the ban on gays in the military. On an individual level, lesbian and gay candidates won more offices than they lost. info from OUT 3-95





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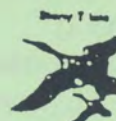
Attention Animal Lovers!! Pet Refuge, 2300 W. 6 th. St., Mishawaka, IN. 256-0886, is seeking volunteers to help with the care of the pets and also donations of pet related items.

St. Joseph County Humane Society Mishawaka, IN. is accepting aluminum cans to recycle. The monies earned from this aluminum goes into their operating fund.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



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Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby.

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Book now for Holland Michigan Twp Festival, May 4th-14th.*

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March 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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26 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	27	28 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31 APRIL DANCE! Tomorrow night in Niles																																																																																												

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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the March *Open Arms* is March 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after March 10th may not be published in the April newsletter. Newsletter meeting: Sunday, March 11th, 1995. Call 271-0338 for directions.